

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A meta-data driven resource management system comprising:

a resource non-specific database comprising a plurality of resource records corresponding to multiple different types of fixed or consumable collaborative resources ~~for consumption used~~ when completing a task in a collaborative application;

a metadata manager programmed to define records within said database according to resource name and resource attributes for different resource types specified within metadata definitions of said different resource types, each of said metadata definitions further specifying a resource containment hierarchy; and,

a resource manager coupled to said metadata manager and said database, said resource manager comprising a configuration for creating, locating and reserving resource instances based upon resource types stored in said database and defined within a corresponding metadata definition; and,

an access control manager coupled to said resource manager and configured to limit access to individual ones of said resource instances based upon a specification of said resource containment hierarchy.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a user interface (UI) generation component coupled to said resource manager and configured to generate a UI for said creating, locating and reserving of said resource instances based upon said resource attributes specified within corresponding ones of said metadata definitions of said different resource types.

Please cancel claim 3.

Please cancel claim 4.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said database, metadata manager and resource manager are disposed within a collaborative computing application.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein said collaborative computing application comprises a learning management system programmed to manage learning resources comprising classrooms and instructors.

7. (Currently Amended) A metadata driven resource management method comprising the steps of:

processing individual metadata documents to identify respective resource names and corresponding resource attributes for fixed or consumable collaborative resources for consumption used when completing a task in a collaborative application specified within said individual metadata documents, said metadata documents specifying a resource containment hierarchy;

creating new resource instances to be managed based upon said respective resource names and said corresponding resource attributes identified within said individual metadata documents;

persisting said new resource instances in a resource non-specific database; and,

locating and managing individual ones of said new resource instances based upon said individual metadata documents; and,

limiting access to said new resource instances based upon said specification of said resource containment hierarchy.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of generating individual user interface (UI) screens for managing selected resource instances based upon corresponding resource attributes specified within individual metadata documents used to create said selected resource instances.

Please cancel claim 9.

10. (Currently Amended) A metadata driven resource management method comprising the step of adding a new manageable resource instance of a new manageable resource type for a fixed or consumable collaborative resource for consumption used when completing a task in a collaborative application to a resource non-specific database containing a set of manageable resource instances created from corresponding pre-existing manageable resource types which differ from the new resource type, the adding step comprising the steps of:

defining the new manageable resource type in a markup language document with a specified resource name and at least one specified resource attribute, the markup language document specifying a resource containment hierarchy;

generating a user interface (UI) for creating and managing the new manageable resource instance based upon said at least one specified resource attribute in said markup language document; and,

writing the new manageable resource instance to the database;

limiting access to the new manageable resource instance based upon an access control list.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of locating and managing the new manageable resource instance in the database through said UI.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said managing step comprises the step of reserving the new manageable resource instance through said UI.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the defining step comprises the step of defining the new manageable resource type in a markup language document with a specified resource name, at least one specified resource attribute and a containment hierarchy.

Please cancel claim 14.

15. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for metadata driven resource management, the computer program

comprising a routine set of instructions which when executed by the machine cause the machine to perform the steps of:

processing individual metadata documents to identify respective resource names and corresponding resource attributes for fixed or consumable collaborative resources for consumption used when completing a task in a collaborative application specified within said individual metadata documents, said metadata documents specifying a resource containment hierarchy;

creating new resource instances to be managed based upon said respective resource names and said corresponding resource attributes identified within said individual metadata documents;

persisting said new resource instances in a resource non-specific database; and,

locating and managing individual ones of said new resource instances based upon said individual metadata documents; and,

limiting access to said new resource instances based upon said specification of said resource containment hierarchy.

16. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 15, further comprising the step of generating individual user interface (UI) screens for managing selected resource instances based upon corresponding resource attributes specified within individual metadata documents used to create said selected resource instances.

Please cancel claim 17.